

[24 November, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

the action against the officials responsible for violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State Government has also been requested to submit para-wise comments in respect of various issues raised in the representation of Shri V. Jayashankar, on 01.11.2006.

**Fast track clearance for forest submersion and destruction
by irrigation projects**

320. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Supreme Court Empowered Committee on Environment to give fast-track clearances for forest submersion and destruction by various Irrigation Projects;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Empowered Committee on Environment to agree for Fast-Track Forest clearance; and

(c) how many proposals the Supreme Court Empowered Committee has cleared for fast-track approvals alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Forest and environmental clearance on instalment basis

321. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that various State Governments are seeking forest and environmental clearances for dams on an instalment-basis;

(b) whether it is a fact that projects are being divided into separate entities, so as, to pose applications for destruction of forest on a smaller scale;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have agreed to such break-up of composite proposals for fast-track forest clearance; and

(d) the steps proposed to avoid giving permission in instalments for dams and major industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the guidelines issued by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the project proposals for diversion of forest land for construction of dams are considered as composite proposals. The proposals submitted in parts are returned to the States for re-submission as composite proposal.

- (c) No, Sir
- (d) Does not arise.

White-backed vultures

322. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to set up centres for conservation, breeding and captive care of the critically threatened white-backed vultures;
- (b) if so, the population of white-backed vultures in the country; and
- (c) the number of centres to be set up in the country; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is well known that the population of the white-backed vulture in the country has declined drastically but no scientific survey at the national level has been conducted.

(c) The Government has decided to set up four centres in off-display areas of Zoos at Junagarh in Gujarat, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and Bhubaneswar in Orissa.

Vacancies in CGHS dispensaries

323. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of posts of doctors/para-medical staff/clerical staff/peon are lying vacant in a number of dispensaries under the South Zone, Delhi;